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SENATE HAS KILLED THE MORGAN BILL

AND HAS SENT ANOTHER MEASURE TO HOUSE.

Seems Now There Will Be No Dispensary Legislation at This Session.

The general assembly will in all probability adjourn on Saturday. The senate has killed the Morgan local option bill and has sent another dispensary measure to the house but it is extremely doubtful if there will be any dispensary legislation at this session.

The dispensary situation, as far as the senate is concerned seems instead of having arrived at a conclusion to be in a more complicated condition than ever. There may not be any legislation whatever on the matter at all this session, if the threat of Senator Blease of Newberry to hold the floor until Saturday night holds good. On Tuesday evening the Morgan bill was killed and the dispensary forces hooked to the title of it the substitute for the Rayson-Manning bill. Senator Blease immediately held up the bill, because, he said, certain of those who wished it passed would not vote to kill the reformatory bill measure which he has been persistently and vigorously fighting. He had stated before that if he were not assisted in the death of this measure there would be trouble for other bills.

There was more debate on the dispensary bills on Tuesday and it appeared at one time as if a vote would be reached at the morning session. But this was precluded by objection of Senator Mauldin, who stated that as Senator Blease had fought the reformatory bill and had threatened an attack on it for last evening, he would not recede from his position.

As it now stands the Morgan bill is dead and the Rayson-Manning bill hung up.

The situation in the dispensary issue on Thursday was still more complicated. The senate Wednesday morning read, for the second time, the Rayson-Manning bill, objection having been removed. This bill was read the last time in the senate on Wednesday and was sent to the house on Thursday. It goes to the lower body, not for three readings but for concurrence, as the bill is really a house measure. This status was obtained by affixing to the title of the Morgan bill which has already passed the house, the body of the Rayson-Manning bill, which originated in the senate, and had never been sent across the state house.

Now what the house will do is hard to say. One part of the general assembly has declared itself for local option which is against the theory of the Rayson-Manning bill, by passing the Morgan bill, and on top of that the Rucker bill, the Morgan bill having been killed by the senate might be before last. The house seemed to feel that as the senate had killed one measure along this line, that another should be put up to them. The house may refuse to sanction the adoption of the Rayson-Manning bill, as this sort of measure has not been to its notion. On the other hand, the senate, it appears, will not stand sponsor for a bill giving local option, preferring central government.

As to the election of the new board it is held that officers remain in office until their successors qualify. Following out this, should the legislature adjourn without an election, the present board would hold over, however.

Shortly after the senate was called to order in the morning, Senator Blease of Newberry announced that he would not continue to hold the floor as he had been advised that the dispensary bills were not in any danger

of becoming law and he thought the issue would be in the campaign, after all, during the summer. Senator Elford who made an unsuccessful motion shortly before to limit all speeches during the remainder of the session to 15 minutes, offered two minor amendments to the Rayson-Manning bill. These were adopted but amendments by Senator Rayson to eliminate the board of control from the bill were rejected. The bill was then given an aye and nay vote as follows:

Ayes—Senators Bates, Bivens, Black, C. L. Blease, E. S. Blease, Carpenter, Davis, Dennis, Douglass, Earle, Elford, Hardin, Hay, Holliday, W. E. Johnson, W. J. Johnson, Manning, McGowan, McLeod, Melver, Peurifoy, Rayson, Stackhouse, Walker, Warren, Wells, Williams—28.

Nays—Senators Brice, Brown, Brooks, Butler, Carlisle, Hood, Hough, Hudson, Mauldin, Talbert, von Kolnitz—12.

The senate on Wednesday began debate on the bucket shop bill but did not finish. The Jamestown exposition was voted an appropriation of \$30,000 and the general appropriation bill was taken up. It is getting late now in the session and there are only three days to work in. Every senator wants his pet bill made a special order.

The house on Wednesday killed the possibility of biennial sessions of the general assembly within the next two or three years. The resolutions looking to a vote on the issue by the people failed to secure the necessary two-third vote of all elected members.

The bill to convert the South Carolina college into a university was passed by an almost unanimous vote.

The salaries of all solicitors were raised to \$1,700, effective April 1st of this year. The salaries are to be uniform.

The bill to establish a hospital for epileptics and inebriates was adopted. The measure provides for an appropriation of \$6,000. The house says the institution must be located on the property of the hospital for the insane and under the control of the board of regents. The senate provided for a distinct commission but the two houses will no doubt agree to have the institution for inebriates connected with the hospital for the insane.

The house sent another bill over to the senate on the dispensary situation. This time it is the Rucker bill that the senate will be asked to consider. The Rucker bill abolishes the state dispensary and provides for county dispensaries and prohibition. Under the bill sent to the senate no elections are to be held in counties that have already voted out the dispensary.

Mr. Sanders secured the passage of a bill which seeks to exempt witnesses who testify in gambling cases against prosecution if the evidence incriminates themselves.

Mr. Herbert's high school proposition was defeated. All remaining house bills have been killed and the decks are being cleared for adjournment Saturday.

BACHMAN CHAPEL.

Mr. J. Noland Epps Injured—The Southern Farmer—Personal and Other Matters.

Sometimes it's with the newspaper reporter much like it is with the old cook—what are we to have for the next meal? I am not exactly on the beg, but would kindly ask that you give us the happenings in your surroundings that are worthy of public note. I am not limited to any special section; my field is open and broad. While I wait, I am here to give the news. My course in writing is to put sin where it belongs, criticize evil and compliment good.

Mr. Butler Banks has been confined to his room with sickness for the past two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Livingston are suffering with grip.

Your correspondent is glad to learn that the little son of Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Sligh, who has been quite sick with measles, is improving.

We have had very few fair days at a time for the past three months, but the continued wet has caused less complaint of dry wells. If there are any spring oats, they will be very late.

Mr. J. Noland Epps, who is living with Mr. Charlie Suber, fell from a scaffold on last Saturday while instructing some hands how to cover a house, and received very painful but not serious injuries. Mrs. Epps received the message late Saturday afternoon that her son was hurt, and she came for him Sunday morning, returning home with him on Monday. We are glad to say that he is getting along nicely at this writing, and hopes soon to be able to return to his duty.

If you are going to judge the country by the number of fine mules, buggies and organs that have been bought, and are still being bought you would say that this is a land of prosperity.

Mr. and Mrs. Nancy Kinard, of No. 9, visited his parents, of this section, on Monday night.

Mr. John Dehardt and Miss Lily Dehardt, of Bush River church section, spent last Friday night with their uncle, Mr. E. S. Franklin.

Mrs. Goff returned home last Monday.

I stated in my last week's letter that I wanted a milch cow. For the last few days I have received notice of a good many for sale in various sections of the county. Thank you, brethren, I hope soon to have a good milch cow, and this shows you what a little of the printer's ink will do. Yes, if you want to keep up with the times, you must advertise.

Misses Mattie and Marie Fellers, of Colony section, spent Monday night with their uncle, Mr. J. T. McCullough and family.

I have in my possession a few copies of the Southern Farmer, given to me for distribution by J. B. O'Neill Holloway, who is the managing editor of the journal. This is a new birth in journalism, purely devoted to agriculture, horticulture, dairying, poultry raising and every phase and feature of farm work. I have read all three issues with care, and have found the paper pure, clean and spotless, only devoted to that which it is intended for. In fact, the paper is worthy of higher comment than I feel able to give it. I can heartily commend it to my brother farmers, and feel sure that the dollar subscription rate would be a dollar well spent to any farmer.

The Daughters of the Confederacy delegated or assigned to Sheriff M. M. Buford the power to deliver to Mr. M. M. Long his cross of honor. Mr. Long, on account of feeble health, was unable to attend the meeting. It is learned through the Sheriff that he will be down one day this week.

Say, Kay, have you seen that ground hog yet? I suppose Mr. Cabaniss keeps him on hand every day, and would be glad to have you come and take a peep at him any time. I am going to have a little ground hog out here in the country after awhile. Will you come out if I let you know? T. J. W.

The Card Club.

Miss Bessie Schumpert very charmingly entertained the card club on Tuesday evening. Delightful refreshments were served, and the occasion was very thoroughly enjoyed by all those present.

Mr. Pork Packer—So he writes poetry, does he?

Sylvia—Oh, papa, it is perfectly heavenly!

Mr. Pork Packer—Well, we are exploiting a new pork sausage and can probably use him in the advertising department.—Judge.

SENATOR TILLMAN BEFORE COMMITTEE

SENIOR SENATOR BEFORE DISPENSARY COMMITTEE.

No Direct Charges Against Any Member of the State Board of Dispensary Directors.

Senator B. R. Tillman appeared before the dispensary investigation committee in Columbia on Tuesday afternoon. The committee held its meeting in the hall of the house of representatives, and Senator Tillman took up his position on top of the speaker's desk. Senator Tillman made no direct charge against any member of the state board, and those who heard his testimony are of the opinion that he failed to specify. The following report is from the Columbia State:

In the course of his remarks Senator Tillman scolded the committee for not going down into the private affairs of men who had got rich by the dispensary, but he would not give any names of parties to whom he was referring, and thus aid the committee. The value of Senator Tillman's information was very little; his advice may have been worth something: the moral effect of such a melodramatic performance will not be of much service to the committee in the further prosecution of its work.

Senator Tillman's talk was entertaining, and there was a packed gallery which frequently applauded, especially when he would get off some of his sarcasm—in lieu of answers to questions from the lawyers, Messrs. Bellinger & Welch, representing Messrs. Towill and Boykin.

Boiled down to its essence, the speech of Senator Tillman inveighed against the investigating committee for not going directly at the members of the state board. He himself declined to assert his belief in their honesty and exhibited as his reason a copy of the terms on which the dispensary board asks for bids. He declared that it failed to secure competitive bidding and was therefore a violation of the oath of office of these men. He then went on to tell how he had bought, how he had run the dispensary, how he had financed, how he had managed, and described his visit to Cincinnati and Pittsburg and his dealings with Hubbell. He admitted that many people had believed that he had received rebates from Hubbell, but denied strenuously that such was the case and charged that those who believed it but measured himself by their own yardstick.

Hubbell had given him the opportunity to start the dispensary by selling to the state on credit. So when it came to the rebates on the first shipment (a matter of 7 cents a gallon on the cologne spirits used to rectify), he told Hubbell that the latter could use that money himself as the state of South Carolina was grateful to him for assisting to start the dispensary by permitting it to buy on credit.

Mr. Bellinger and Mr. Welch asked the witness some very direct questions along this line and had the witness been in the supreme court room where he could not have made lengthy speeches every time a question was asked, they might have tangled him up, but he indulged in argument with the attorneys—and it is well known that Senator Tillman can argue.

He admitted that the charges he has made are that there are no competitive bids and he had admitted none when he bought from Hubbell; and as to the charge of excessive amount of stock on hand, Mr. Welch asked him some eye-opening questions in regard to the dispensary working off "hard stock" in the last two years, stuff handed down to this administration.

The whole affair was as much enjoyed as a regular campaign meeting in the summer time.

Tillman and Evans.

As Senator Tillman was walking out of the hall he met Chairman H. H. Evans. They shook hands and Mr. Evans pleasantly suggested that folks had been lying on the senior senator as they had on him. Senator Tillman laughingly said that folks will talk, whereupon the chairman of the state board said that anyone who said he stole any money or was a thief was all sorts of something unprintable. Senator Tillman said that was right and to "cuss out" the fellows who said anything about him. It all seemed good natured and pleasant, but rather spicy language was used.

The Evidence.

By Mr. Lyon: Q. Have you any information in regard to any graft rebate, or improper dealing on the part of any dispensary official or any record about the dispensary?

Senator Tillman—Before I answer any question, I would like to know if I am to answer the questions propounded according to the strict rules of evidence or am I to be allowed the latitude to make myself clearly understood.

Chairman Hay—State it in your own way.

Mr. Lyon—That is perfectly satisfactory to us. Can you give us an instance where any dispensary official received any rebate or graft or any money in any improper way?

Senator Tillman—In order to be able to have myself set aright and have the committee understand just what I know and what I don't know and what I believe upon very strong evidence, I will have to answer that question in my own way.

Chairman Hay—Go ahead, sir.

Senator Tillman—As to knowing specifically of any instance of my own knowledge that any such thing has occurred I answer no. And as for the reasons that influenced me in interviews and in speeches in saying what I have said, I will give the foundation for my opinion. The first thing to which I direct your attention—I had these papers (Senator Tillman exhibits a printed sheet), I had these papers sent here from the state dispensary, having telegraphed to have them in my reach.

Mr. Lyon: Inasmuch as the senator has answered the question so far as his own knowledge is concerned in the negative, I have one other question which I conceive desirable to put to the senator and I will be through with him. While you were in charge of the dispensary did you receive any money in rebates, graft or in any improper way from the Mill Creek dispensary company.

A. I did not.

Q. Did you receive it from any source?

A. No. In order to present the situation, the state of my public utterances through the press and otherwise, in connection with the dishonesty or mismanagement in the state dispensary management, I want to read right here the official advertisement or circular for bids to supply the state with liquor. I want to say as preliminary that I had no dream of being summoned here. I had written to the chairman of the committee last September, when I was at home doing nothing, offering to come before the committee any time he might see fit to summon me to give any information and suggestion in my possession. After I reached Washington and was busily engaged, for I was, with duties, and I have been quite active, if I do say it myself, since this session of congress convened, and I did not look for a summons, and when I saw in the papers yesterday morning that it was desired that I should come here, that such request had been made, I felt it obligatory on me to respond at once, notwithstanding the fact that I was out of the jurisdiction of the state and the committee. (Turning to Chairman Hay) I got a letter last night after I had

telegraphed you twice that I would like to come and the other time that I was going to come. I am very tired and, of course, would like to sit down, but I do not want to be out of sight. If I sit down here I will be out of sight and I do not want to be out of sight. (Senator Tillman had a chair placed on top of the speaker's desk, where he took his seat, the audience applauding the situation in which he placed himself.)

Now, Mr. Chairman, I was about to read for the information of those who have never taken the trouble to study it, the official advertisement or circular, upon which bids are requested.

(Circular read.) I have had no time to get up any papers or to produce the necessary basis for a legal argument. I am not a lawyer, as you all know, but I will call your attention to this, and any man here who chooses to examine the facts under the dispensary law will see that it is required that purchases for the state dispensary shall be made by competitive bids, and I say most emphatically that this method of purchasing has not one element of competition in it; and the law, therefore, as I understand it, has been violated absolutely and without regard to the oath of office or other consequences by those responsible servants of the people, or of the legislature, I should say, and not the people, who have been placed in charge of this business, involving a million and a half or two million dollars. Why do I say that there is no competition in the bidding? Let me say to you that one X rye is not less than \$1.50. What is one X rye? There is no definition whatever under this specification that would establish the test of what one X rye is. No man living can tell by this advertisement what kind of liquor he is bidding on except the price and the price is fixed with the kind of brand in any barrel which he might choose to sell and send here, one X, two X or four X, and no man living, chemist or nobody else, can detect the difference and be able to prevent fraud on the state. I, therefore, assert, as a basis of my first utterances, which are more or less guarded, that the claim of fraud and speculation in the purchase of whiskey, probably by this board, was based upon this simple document, which has been running as an advertisement, so far as I know, I do not how far back it goes. I am not here today to more than give you the basis of my own judgment and opinion. When my attention was directed for the first time to what was going on in the purchase of whiskey here last spring, there being no yard stick then to measure one X, no means of detection to prove other than it is 100 proof—it is the basis of my opinion and assertion that this laxity, the disobedience to law, has left the door wide open for any man who saw fit to make purchases for the state in the vast quantities which have been required and to defraud the state in any amount that might be between the actual cost of the spirit and the adulteration and the price fixed by the board. I will later on, if the chairman wants me to do so, give some little insights into the whiskey business that I have discovered about it when I first inaugurated the dispensary system. But just now to go on I will return to the subject of the board of control. The board, not only has disobeyed the law so far as competitive bids were required, but has left a loophole through which the state could be defrauded simply by brands. The question naturally presents itself. Why do these men do this? I should answer, with their eyes open and with an opportunity obtain counsel, why should they go forward in disobedience of the statute if not because of some underlying purpose or motive? That was the basis of suspicion. Then, when the Spartanburg investigation

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